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NSC BRIEFING

28 April 1955

25X1C

SITUATION IN SAIGON

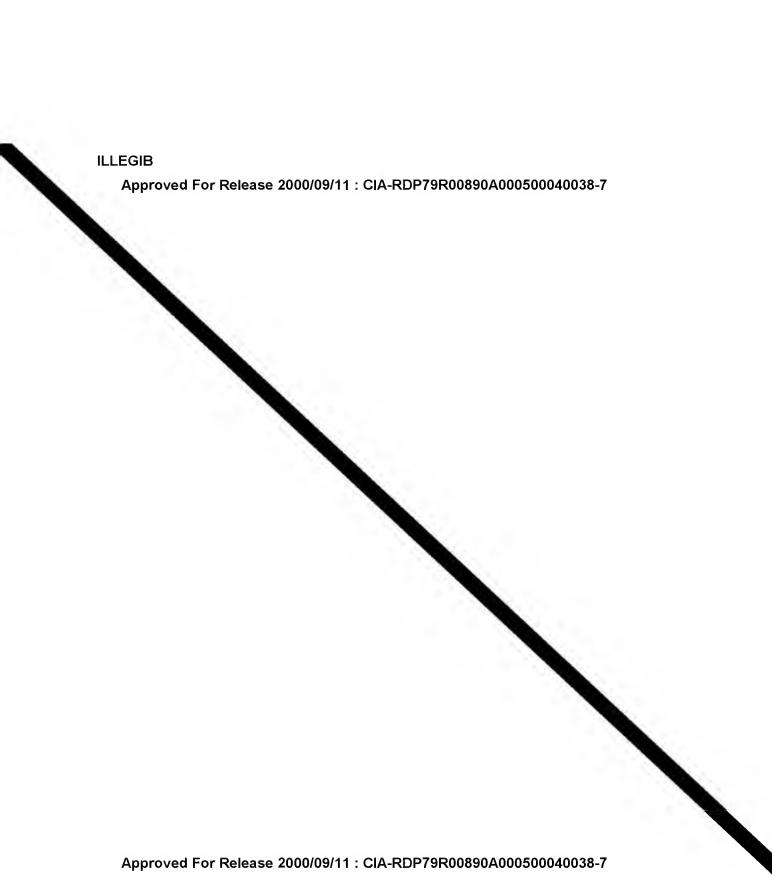
shells startes

landing presidential palace and grounds at 1:15 Thursday afternoon (Saigon time).

- A. After two had hit in the grounds and one on the palace Diem telephoned Ely, said he was ordering counterfire.
- B Ely, whose quarters only a New blocks from palace. said he had heard no firing
- Just then another shell have magnetic ending telephone addiversation.

tbree o'clock, at least von rounds or counterling buth Muaru . um in

2000/00/



## SECRE 1

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Diem's order of 26 April removing police from Binh Xuyen control-forced the issue.

- A. Some 400 of 700 police functionaries had reported to new HQ on 27 April.
- B. Binh Xuyen apparently also getting worried because Bao Dai had not yet acted as they anticipated.
- C. Bao Dai told US Emb Paris
  he had made irrevocable
  commitments and would have
  to act on them momentarily.
- D. He pressed for US views on his plan to solve crisis.
- V. In showdown fight, Vietnamese army could drive Binh Xuyen out of Saason

stopped by French.

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